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To: 'Microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I represent a computer technology training company, and it is our business to remain on the leading edge of information technology (IT) to provide necessary IT education to America's corporations. Part of my job is to stay abreast of the rapid changes that take place in the IT industry every day, so that we can be assured we're offering instruction in the latest and most widely-used software packages.

By any measure, Microsoft is a leader in the software industry. But from my experience with Microsoft as a company, they earn that leadership position every day as fierce competitors and extremely good innovators that constantly seek out the needs and feedback of their customers. Their research and development budget is nearly \$8 billion per year, and I believe, second to none. That investment alone shows their commitment to technical innovations that benefit us all.

As I mentioned, I come across industry information on a daily basis that confirms that competition is alive and well for Microsoft products. Two obvious examples are the proliferation of open-source Linux and Sun's consideration to freely distribute their StarOffice suite. And yet, consumers continue to pay for Microsoft's products because they are superior at meeting the needs of the market majority.

Please put an end to the litigation, and let the software industry seek its own level of healthy competition.

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